

# REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 23rd May 1896.

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No	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
Fortnightly.					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	450	16th May 1896.	
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria ...	700		
Weekly.					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	About 250	12th May, 1896.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	550	17th ditto.	
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,145	15th ditto.	
Monthly.					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna ...	350		
BENGALI.					
Weekly.					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	826	13th May, 1896.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore ...	200		
3	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	603	15th ditto.	
URIA.					
Monthly.					
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack ...	160		
2	"Indradhanu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
3	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj ...	.....	.....	
Weekly.					
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	25th March, 8th and 15th April, 1896.	Only six copies have been issued since the paper was received in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered. This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190	2nd, 9th and 16th April.	
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309	1st, 8th and 15th April.	
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	480	4th, 11th and 18th April.	
HINDI.					
Monthly.					
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
Weekly.					
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000		
URDU.					
Weekly.					
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400	18th May, 1896.	



No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication,	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	<b>BENGALI.</b>				
	<i>Weekly.</i>	<b>RAJSHAHI DIVISION.</b>			
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....		
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	195	13th May, 1896.	
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180	7th ditto.	
	<b>HINDI.</b>				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	500	.....	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
	<b>BENGALI.</b>				
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>	<b>DACCA DIVISION.</b>			
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	244		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Charn Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	11th May, 1896.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	17th ditto.	
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Do. ...	About 440	16th ditto.	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ..	240	14th ditto.	
	<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500		
	<b>BENGALI.</b>				
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>	<b>CHITTAGONG DIVISION.</b>			
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	700		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120		
	<b>BENGALI.</b>				
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>	<b>ASSAM.</b>			
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....	1st Fortnight Baisakh, 1303 B.S.	



## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Hubbul Mateen* of the 11th May says that no European Power will in future come forward to help England in a time of emergency, because all of them have come to understand that whenever she forms an alliance with them it is simply for the purpose of her own aggrandisement. They have faith in Russia's honesty of purpose, and like to be friends with her. The rumoured alliance between Russia, Turkey, and France has been disagreeable to England, because it will check her policy of annexation and aggrandisement.

HUBLUL MATEEN,  
May 11th, 1896.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2. The *Charu Mihir* of the 11th May says that one Revatimohan, a constable in Mymensingh town, having been attacked with cholera, was removed to the police line for treatment, but is said to have been kept lying under a tarpaulin for a whole night, and on a blanket spread on the ground for a considerable time. Finding him next day in a dying condition, one of his relatives removed him to his own lodgings, where he recovered. The arrangement which is reported to have been made at the police line for his treatment was extremely disgraceful, and the District Superintendent of Police should enquire into the matter.

CHARU MIHIR,  
May, 11th 1896.

3. A correspondent of the same paper considers it necessary that the river police should be revived in the Mymensingh district, as river dacoities have become frequent there. Jute merchants, travelling with money in their possession in the rainy season, are often plundered and even killed. A river police on the Jabuna may do some good.

CHARU MIHIR.

4. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 15th May says that the stream, which, issuing from the Dwarakeswar, unites with it again further down, has been, for a long time past, dammed across every year between Rangta-khali and Rajpur—places situated opposite to each other on its banks. In last Chaitra, too, a dam was constructed there with the permission of the Magistrate and at a great cost for obtaining a supply of drinking water, the want of which had been sorely felt for some time before in the locality. The stream had become nearly full, and the embankments on the banks had been cut down to let in water, when, all on a sudden, the Police Sub-Inspector of Goghat came and proceeded to cut down the dam. The villagers were almost dying of thirst. And what is there that desperate men will not do? They opposed the police, and a slight affray took place. The police, however, forcibly cut down the dam. Information of this opposition was sent to the Police Inspector of Jahanabad, who came to Sekhpur on the 10th April last with 15 or 16 constables, armed with muskets, and about a hundred chaukidars. He arrested everybody he came across, and beat and otherwise maltreated them. The very women were insulted, so that it became unsafe for them to stir out. He arrested some 50 or 60 hât people and kept them sitting in the sun till noon in this terrible heat without giving them a drop of water to drink. At this stage, the local Deputy Magistrate, Maulvi Abdul Sobhan, came up. The correspondent cannot help praising the conduct of this officer. Seeing the distress of the arrested men he released them, and told the police to arrest only the guilty people and not to oppress the villagers at large in this way. But his remonstrance has had no effect. The oppression continues as before, so that the villagers do not venture to stir out by day. Is there no remedy for this oppression? Will not the generous Lieutenant-Governor, under whose administration many oppressions have been put down, attend to this?

HITAVADI,  
May 15th, 1896.

5. A correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan* of the 16th May says that Rohini Kanta, Avani Kanta and Lakshmi Kanta Ghosh, cooly-recruiters of Telenda Uttarpara, decoyed a young Brahmin woman named Sasimukhi and kept her in the depôt at the place. Upon coming to know this, the girl's grand-father went to the

BANKURA, DARPAN  
May 16th, 1896.



Ghoses and asked them to restore him his grand-daughter. The Ghoses replied to this demand by a threat of beating. The man then sought the help of the head-constable of Mejia. This officer, for some unaccountable reason, made delay in coming to Telenda for an investigation, and in the meantime the young woman was sent away. The case has since been investigated by the Police Sub-Inspector of Gangajalghati. The result of the investigation is not yet known. It is hoped that the District Magistrate of Bankura will enquire into the matter.

HITAISHI,  
May 19th, 1896.

6. The *Hitaishi* of the 19th May understands that a scion of a rich family in Calcutta is trying to cultivate the friendship of some Calcutta Hakims by inviting them to dinner parties in which wine and women are freely introduced. One may wonder how educated Hakims allow themselves to be thus enmeshed by an unprincipled and profligate young man, but the fact is unfortunately as the writer states it. The young man in question has a grudge against many people, and it is his intention to get them into trouble by getting up false cases, and he well knows that he would succeed if he had a few Hakims on his side. The young man is already giving effect to his intention. The writer refrains from giving out the names of the young man and his Hakim friends this time, but if they do not stand warned he will be obliged to bring their names to the notice of the public.

Calcutta Hakims in the meshes of a profligate.

HITAISHI.

7. The same paper complains that Imam Bux Thanadar's Lane, near the Musjid Bari Street, has been turned into a veritable nest of ruffians. A number of Musalman *gundas* of Dhulipara frequent this lane, molest and maltreat the residents and passers-by in various ways, and even rob them of valuables. These ruffians also oppress the inmates of the neighbouring brothels and extort money from them. The police is quite indifferent, and does not try to put them down.

Ruffians in Calcutta

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
May 12th, 1896.

8. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 12th May expresses its satisfaction at the amicable settlement of a dispute between Bani Kantha Banerji and Maulvi Nejabut Hossain of Deoghur by the intervention of Mr. Heard, Subdivisional Officer of that place. The less such disputes are brought to British courts of justice, the better for the people. It is a patent truth that the power of the Sovereign is increased and strengthened at the cost of the power of the people. Social power and kingly power, specially in this country, clash with each other. It is only when society cannot redress a wrong or fails to redress it to the satisfaction of the injured party that one should seek justice in a British court. The more, therefore, will people learn to depend upon their society, the more will they increase its power and prestige. In other words, people will in this way learn to depend upon themselves more than upon anybody else. In Deoghur there is Local Self-Government. Why, then, should people who boast of self-government seek the intervention of a British court of justice in settling a dispute among themselves? They are certainly not wise men who in this way curtail their own power. Mr. Heard's conduct has given the public cause for satisfaction. He has set a good example to his brother officers, which they will do well to follow.

Mr. Heard of Deoghur.

SAHACHAR,  
May 13th, 1896.

9. According to the *Sahachar* of the 13th May, Maulvi Fazl Karim, Subdivisional Officer of Madaripur, may be completely innocent of the charges which have been brought against him by Sub-Deputy Collector Babu Ananda Chandra Basu. But the Lieutenant-Governor ought to order a thorough enquiry into the charges. For, if even one among them is established, the Maulvi will prove himself unfit to remain in the public service. The last charge is a very serious one, perhaps the most serious that can be brought against a public officer. The Maulvi should be dismissed if it is proved against him that jointly with a relative he occupies land belonging to Government, and that he helped his co-sharer with men in the employ of Government in order to deprive the latter of its dues.

The writer will be glad to see the Maulvi exonerated. But an enquiry is necessary, if it were for no other purpose than that of affording the Maulvi



an opportunity of clearing himself of the charges brought against him by a responsible Government officer. If the charges are proved to be false, Babu Ananda Chandra should be punished.

10. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 14th May says that out of 294 munsifs serving in the Lower Provinces of Bengal there are only two Bihari Musalmans and two Bihari Hindus who hold permanent posts. The recent circular order of the High Court directing all officers of Bihar who hold officiating appointments to pass an examination in Bengali has frustrated all their hopes. Why does not the circular also direct that all Bengali munsifs who serve in Bihar should pass an examination in Urdu, the Bengali munsifs' ignorance of which seriously inconveniences the public?

DARUSSALTANAT  
AND URDU GUIDE,  
May 14th, 1896.

Babu Syamapada Chaudhuri,  
Deputy Magistrate of Khulna.

11. The *Hitavadi* of the 15th May publishes a correspondence on the subject of the charge of demanding illegal gratification which has been brought against Babu Syamapada Chaudhuri, Deputy Magistrate of Khulna. The correspondent says that an enquiry is necessary, as it is desirable that all judicial officers should be men of clear reputation. He also says that similar charges were brought against that officer at almost every place he has been in during the last 9 or 10 years. When he was at Hazaribagh, a Hindustani made an affidavit against him, and the report of his corrupt practices spread so far and wide, that the respectable public of the place passed a resolution against him at a public meeting and sent it to the Commissioner, Mr. Grimley, and the Deputy Commissioner, Colonel Garbett. But the matter was hushed up by the latter officer. There was a similar accusation against him at Jalpaiguri, but there, too, the matter was hushed up by the Deputy Commissioner, Lieutenant Colonel Boileau.

HITAVADI,  
May 15th, 1896.

Mr. A. C. Mitra, Munsif of  
Murshidabad.

12. The *Pratihar* of the 15th May complains of the dilatory habit of Mr. A. C. Mitra, First Munsif in the sadar of the Murshidabad district, who cannot quickly dispose of even *ex-parte* suits. The Munsif should be a little quicker in the despatch of business for the sake of public convenience.

PRATIKAR,  
May 15th, 1896.

13. The *Sanjivani* of the 16th May draws the attention of the Government and of the Calcutta High Court to the grievances of the Munsifs. There is not another class

SANJIVANI,  
May 16th, 1896.

of public servants so hard-working and hard-worked as they. The number of civil suits is fast increasing. Within the last four or five years it has increased about 35 per cent. The number of Munsifs, however, has not been proportionately increased. In 1891 the number of Munsifs was 262. In 1894 30 additional Munsifs were appointed. But this addition to the number of munsifs is not enough to cope with the increased pressure of work. Mr. Cotton's attempt to prove that there is no necessity of increasing the number of Munsifs has been an utter failure.

14. The same paper complains that the Magistrate of Monghyr recently sentenced an amla of Biju Marwari, a respectable zamindar of Monghyr, to a fine of fifteen rupees and fifteen strokes of the whip. The accused's pleader prayed for the commutation of the whipping to a fine amounting even to five hundred rupees. The prayer was not granted. The pleader then prayed for time to make an appeal, but in vain. The sentence of whipping was carried out. The Magistrate of Monghyr has thus clearly violated the Lieutenant-Governor's order that no respectable person should be sentenced to whipping. Will not the Lieutenant-Governor demand an explanation from the Magistrate of Monghyr for his unwarrantable conduct?

SANJIVANI.

(d)—Education.

15. The *Sahachar* of the 13th May says that the public will be glad to hear of the punishment of the Senate House *chaprasis*, which has not been very heavy, considering the grave violation of discipline of which they were guilty. Not students only but servants, too, should be made amenable to discipline.

SAHACHAR,  
May 13th, 1896.



HITAVADI,  
May 15th, 1896.

16. The *Hitavadi* of the 15th May is glad that the three *chaprasis*, who had beaten Mr. Ananda Mohan Bose's son in a dastardly manner, have been suspended by the Syndicate for six months. How humiliating this decision of the Syndicate must be to the Director of Public Instruction, to the Registrar and to others who were for laying all the blame at the door of Mr. Bose's son. The *Indian Daily News* also should remember that this decision, which gives the lie to Mr. Griffiths' report, has been passed by the newly-formed Syndicate and not by the old one.

BANGAVASI,  
May 16th, 1896.

17. Most of the educational officers, observes the *Bangavasi* of the 16th May, have availed themselves of the summer vacation to go to Darjeeling, and the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, has embraced this opportunity to confer with them about the management of the Eden Hostel. But why are the trustees of the hostel not consulted in this matter? A trustee, by the way, literally means a person confided in.

BANGAVASI.

18. Referring to the Syndicate's decision on the report of Babu Kalicharan Banerji and Dr. Asutosh Mukharji on the case of Sudhansu Mohan Basu, *versus* the University peons, the same paper observes that, finding it a hard nut to crack to take the European Registrar to task, the Syndicate has vented its spleen against the poor peons. These very men, however, who have thus proved veritable tyrants in their dealing with poor underlings, never fail to raise a hue and cry whenever an official oppresses a weak and helpless person. The poor peons, it should be remembered, did nothing but carry out their master's behest, and they alone should not have been punished for an offence to which they were not sole or exclusive parties.

SANJIVANI,  
May 16th, 1896.

19. The *Sanjivani* of the 16th May has the following:—

The Eden Hindu Hostel.

We have something to say about the management of the Eden Hindu Hostel. We do not hesitate to say that the rules, which were framed for the management of this institution, when it was started, have never been strictly enforced. We have come to know from reliable sources that many of the lodgers have been in the habit of frequenting theatres and staying away from the hostel till a late hour of the night. The hostel authorities have so far taken no notice of their conduct or tried to make them amenable to the hostel discipline. Rai Radhika Prasanna Mukharji Bahadur and Mahamahopadhyaya Mahes Chandra Nyayaratna were so long members of the hostel committee and Babu Kunja Bihari Basu of the Office of the Director of Public Instruction was the Superintendent. None of these gentlemen could possibly have leisure enough to enable them to keep a strict supervision over the conduct of the lodgers. Babu Kunja Bihari, especially, is a man of a quiet, inoffensive disposition, and it is not likely that a man like him will make a thorough-going Superintendent. It is not so much necessary for a hostel Superintendent to go out marketing as it is to keep a sharp and vigilant eye on the lodgers placed under his care. Marketing can be done by any other faithful and trustworthy man.

The hostel committee has lately transferred the management of the hostel to the Education Department. Sir Alfred Croft, therefore, is now virtually the supreme head of the Hindu Hostel, and the public can reasonably expect from him a thorough overhauling of its management. The extension of the hostel has necessarily increased the responsibilities of the hostel authorities. The supervision of the hostel should now be placed in the hands of more than one good, conscientious and educated men, who will be able to devote their whole time and attention to its management. The interests of the boarders should not be sacrificed to the interests of any of Sir Alfred Croft's favourite assistants in the Education Department. The management of the hostel should be placed in the hands of men who, by their culture and training, are eminently fit for promoting the physical, mental and spiritual welfare of the boarders.

The first thing the hostel authorities should do is to prevent the promiscuous mixing of the grown-up with the juvenile boarders. Among the boarders there are grown-up students of the B.A. and M.A. classes, and little



boys belonging to the lower classes in schools. Care should be taken to prevent their being thrown together. The society of grown-up students is morally prejudicial to the interests of juvenile students. Nothing is more calculated to make them saucy and cunning beyond their age. Grown-up students are often seen to spoil their young co-lodgers by singing love songs and telling love stories in their presence. Worse scandals sometimes take place in hostels. To remove the evil, grown-up and juvenile boarders should be lodged in different rooms. The boarders should not be allowed to visit theatres or to stay away from the hostel long after nightfall. When the boarders go out for a walk or go to a public meeting some trustworthy member of the hostel staff should accompany them.

As all students of Government institutions in Calcutta, who are not directly under the supervision of guardians, are going to be compelled to lodge and board in the hostel, the authorities should make separate arrangements for the Brahmo boys and Hindu boys of different castes, so that no complaint may arise in future. As regards fooding, the hostel authorities should not injure the health of the boarders by enforcing an insufficient dietary. Two well-to-do boarders of the hostel used to drink half a *seer* of milk each every day and increased its quantity during illness. Sir Charles Elliott on his visit to the hostel once remarked that it was a useless luxury for a boy of this country to drink so much milk. Sir Charles Elliott's advice should not be acted up to by the hostel authorities.

One word more, and we have done. There was a hostel in the management of the Court of Wards where the wards were lodged. The evil habits which these young men contracted there did not reflect any credit on the management of that hostel. The authorities of the Eden Hindu Hostel should take care that this hostel, too, does not, like the Court of Ward's hostel, prove a hotbed of corruption.

20. Referring to the Syndicate's decision in the case of Sudhansu Mohan Basu, the same paper writes as follows:—

The sequel of the Griffiths affair.

Registrar Griffiths wrote in reply to the letter of Sudhansu's father that the University peons had done their duty, and deserved reward rather than punishment. Depending upon the report of an irresponsible clerk, Mr. Griffiths denied the ill-treatment of Sudhansu by the peons of the University, and Sir Alfred Croft, relying on Mr. Griffiths' report, said, in his letter to the Senate of the 22nd February, that no such ill-treatment, as was complained of, could possibly take place. The Syndicate, however, has thought otherwise and punished the offending peons. Its decision in this case is a reflection on Mr. Griffiths' veracity and Sir Alfred Croft's judgment. The report of the Committee, which inquired into the action of the peons, proves that it is no violation of any rule of the University to enter the examination hall during the tiffin hour.

SANJIVANI,  
May 16th, 1896.

21. Tamizuddin Ahmad, Superintendent of the Musalman boarding-house, Chinsura, writing in the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 16th May, says that the complaints (see report on native papers for 9th May, paragraph 21), which

The Chinsura boarding-house for Musalman students.

were published against the management of the boarding-house, are false and without foundation. The correspondent who sent the complaints is a wicked boy who was more than once guilty of violating the boarding-house rules, and was some time ago expelled therefrom. The boarding-house is under the supervision of the Principal of the Hooghly College. And if there had been really any cause of complaint against the management, it would have been brought to his notice and removed. The fact of the complainant rushing into public print shows that there is little foundation for his complaint. The editor acted wrongly in publishing the complaints in his paper without due enquiry into their truth. The *Sudhakar* seems now-a-days to take wicked people more than good men under its sheltering wings. If the complainant's name is published, the correspondent will be able to prove the correctness of what he has said, and that the complaints are the outcome of malice.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
May 16th, 1896.

By way of reply to the above, the editor observes that he cannot say whether the boy alluded to wrote the letter which was published in this paper. The letter was signed by a number of boarders. Many ex-residents of the boarding-house, who now hold appointments under Government and high



University degrees, have written in support of the allegations which it contained. Their views will be published, if necessary. Instead of endeavouring to exculpate himself, the Superintendent of the boarding-house should look after the comfort and convenience of the boarders. The editor is unwilling to expose the Superintendent by publishing an account of his high-handed career, extending over a long period of time. Exposure may lead parents to withdraw their boys from the boarding-house and bring upon the Superintendent the displeasure of the Principal and the Director of Public Instruction.

MINIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
May 16th, 1896.

22. The same paper will be glad to see the Director of Public Instruction following his own circular about the appointment of Musalman inspecting officers when filling up the three new posts of Deputy Inspector of Schools, which have been proposed to be created. There is no lack of competent Musalmans now—the writer himself being able to give the names of many who are graduates.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
May 21st, 1896.

23. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 21st May makes the following comments on the proposed establishment of training colleges for Europeans and Eurasians:—

The number of Europeans and Eurasians in this country is microscopically small; yet it is this microscopic minority that is going to be provided with special facilities for education. The favoured community belongs to, or comes from, the ruling race, and the Government has naturally a fondness for it. It has also of late years grown to be a settled policy with the Government to show special favour to minorities, even at the cost of preponderating majorities. It is, therefore, quite useless to make any objection to the proposed training colleges for Europeans and Eurasians.

It is proposed that in these training colleges purely technical education will not be imparted. Their primary object will be to impart a liberal education, technical education being made a secondary object. In the case of the natives, however, the Government is anxious to impart a purely technical education, and to do away with liberal education.

The reason is not far to seek. The growth of a Eurasian population in India is looked upon by the Government as a source of political danger. England lost a large empire in America—not through the hostility of the natives. It is not the native Americans who are fighting the Spaniards in Cuba. The Goa mutiny was due to Eurasians of Portuguese extraction. In the British colonies England has to fear not the natives, but her own kith and kin. When Sir Alexander Mackenzie was the Chief Commissioner of Burmah, he expressed a marked disapproval of any intimacy of European officials with Burmese women. The growth of Eurasian population in Burmah was a source of great anxiety to him. He tried his best to discourage the growth of a Eurasian population, but in vain.

What is then to be done to avert the danger ahead? The Government well knows that educated Eurasians will be less dangerous than uneducated Eurasians. This is the reason why it has proposed to educate the Eurasian community, and no objection of the natives is likely to be heard.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

CHARU MIHIR,  
May 11th, 1896.

24. The *Charu Mihir* of the 11th May has the following:—

Government in the water-scarcity.

The gods have become propitious, and there has been more or less rain in different parts of Bengal. If, following the attitude of Government and the zamindars in regard to the question of tank excavation during this water-scarcity, the cloud gods had engaged themselves in a wordy warfare as to who among them should be taken to task for not sending seasonable showers, Bengal would have been surely, by this time, converted into an arid desert. The rains, it would seem, were delayed for the purpose of teaching a lesson to man.

But unfortunately the lesson has been completely lost upon him. Sir Alexander Mackenzie roused himself into activity as soon as the cry of water-scarcity reached his ears, but he has been unable to do any practical good. With the exception of one or two officers the whole official body have found



themselves wonderfully unanimous on this question of water-scarcity, and in their reports have ignored the loud complaints of the people. A few tanks have been excavated, and the time for action has been wasted in preparations and discussions. Executive power is placed in the hands of many masters, and the District Board is watched by many chaukidars. And so utterly are these men wanting in sympathy with the people that it is far from an easy task to get any real work done by them for the country.

The water-scarcity in Bengal has this year assumed dreadful proportions. But it is not a new complaint that is heard in the country. Every year in the months of Chaitra and Baisakh the people in the mufassal suffer for want of good drinking water to an extent which it is not possible for the officials living in towns and hill stations and enjoying the luxury of filtered water and the water of hill springs to realise with anything like vividness. If all the Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal, from the time of Sir Rivers Thompson, had bestirred themselves in the matter, Bengal would have been doubtless saved at least partially from this widespread water-scarcity.

It has become extremely necessary to amend the provision of the existing law, under which a District Board cannot spend even one *cowri* on water-supply without the permission of the Divisional Commissioner. The most important thing now to do is to inspire the dry and unsympathetic hearts of the officials with a sense of sympathy with the people. Sir Alexander has very probably come to see, by this time, that it is not easy to capture or pierce the impregnable citadel of official unfeelingness merely by means of circulars and telegrams. For the officials are always extremely anxious to deny the existence of famines as well as water-scarcity.

The officials were eagerly expecting rain, and self-help and charity were being preached to the labouring classes and the zamindars, respectively. The zamindars, in their turn, were explaining to Government its duty in this crisis. The public associations in the country were silent. The people were begging for water from door to door. But advice and instruction all went unheeded. Rain has fallen, and there is an end of official responsibility for the year. But the difficult problem of water-scarcity remains unsolved. Much time has been wasted in words, and the fact that nobody's purse has been appreciably touched has probably furnished both the official and the zamindar with an occasion for secretly congratulating each other on the shrewdness displayed by both in this matter.

The official reports on the water-scarcity, conceived in the same spirit and written in the same strain as they all are, clearly prove how great the distance is that separates the hearts of the officials from the wants and wishes of the subject population. The cries of the whole country have gone for nothing. Everybody probably thinks that the crisis has been passed through. Even if this is the view taken of the situation by Government, the duty of the native public and the zamindars is clearly different. British India is the Englishman's empire, but India is our native country. And if we do not awake to a sense of our duty in the presence of this universal water-scarcity, unrelenting nature will surely some day compel us to do so. And what shall we say to Government? Surely, the natives of the country have little to expect from a Government whose pet officers remained unmoved like marble statues even under the incitement of Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

25. The same paper publishes the following complaints about water-scarcity:—

Water-scarcity in the Mymensingh district.

(1) Chatipara, on the road between Mymensingh and Tangail, and twenty or twenty-five villages near it, are suffering extremely from want of water. There is not a single good tank or other reservoir of water in all these villages, the few tanks that exist being now full of mud.

(2) There is no water in the village Mriga, within the jurisdiction of the Badla outpost, in the Mymensingh district. Last year the Kishorganj Local Board sanctioned Rs. 200 for the excavation of a tank in that place, but the zamindar, at the instigation of his amla, refused to give the required piece of land. So the money remained unspent; and want of water or the drinking of impure water this year caused an outbreak of cholera which carried off a large

CHARU MINIR,  
May 11th, 1896.



MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
May 13th, 1896.

HITAVADI,  
May 15th, 1896.

HITAVADI.

BANGAVASI,  
May 16th, 1896.

SANJIVANI,  
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SANJIVANI.

number of victims. There is no alternative now but for the District Board itself to give the piece of land required for making a tank.

26. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 13th May observes that the District Magistrates, in a chorus, deny the existence of water-scarcity in the country. They say that no anxiety need be felt on account of the alleged scarcity of water. At the same time, however, they say that the District Boards are trying their best to remove water-scarcity. How is one to explain this inconsistency?

27. One Ramprasad Chakravarti writes in the *Hitavadi* of the 15th May to say that lately Babu Jogendra Chandra Basu found his neighbour, Hiralal Chakravarti, of No. 17, Gula Ostagar's Lane, Calcutta, ill of cholera and without medical attendance or help of any kind. He at once procured a nurse for Hiralal, and called in a doctor. He also sent information of the matter to the Inspector of the Bartala thana. The Inspector is said to have sent information of the case to the Municipal Doctor, Prakash Babu. But no one came, and Hiralal died at about 11 o'clock at night. Hiralal's wife had been suffering from the same disease for some days past, and their two infant children were found lying on the soiled bed of the dying father. No steps were taken by the Municipality for Hiralal's cremation, although the neighbours sent to it repeated notices of Hiralal's death. Is not the Municipality, which is so careless, responsible for the spread of cholera in the town?

28. Another correspondent of the same paper says that the Muchikhali khal not having been re-excavated by the Jessore District Board, the people in the neighbourhood are suffering greatly from water-scarcity. The District Board says that a re-excavation of the khal will produce floods. This objection has no force whatever; for during the hundred years the khal flowed freely, it never produced a flood.

29. The *Bangavasi* of the 16th May writes that Raja Saurindramohan Tagore has sanctioned the expenditure of Rs. 1,000 for the re-excavation of tanks in a village in his zamindari. Other zamindars do not seem to be indifferent. But the officials are trying to lay the whole blame at the door of the zamindars and their tenants, and are ascribing the water-scarcity to their apathy and neglect. Mr. Carstairs, for example, speaking of a village in his district, observes that the people were too busy in marrying and giving in marriage to mind the digging of tanks and wells. Most of the Magistrates write very much in this strain. Their sole care seems to be to shake off their own responsibility and fix it on others. Some Magistrates go even further. The people, they observe, do not help themselves; let them better die of thirst. The Magistrates of the Presidency Division, in particular, are writing in this strain. They are all faithful disciples of Mr. Westmacott. It has to be seen whether these Magistrates will succeed in perverting Sir Alexander Mackenzie himself and in winning him over to their view of the matter.

30. The *Sanjivani* of the 16th May complains that there is scarcity of water in Sabhadhya, in the Dacca district. The tanks contain only noxious and poisonous water, which emits a sickening stench. Want of water is keenly felt, and even the ladies of respectable families are virtually running about in search of water. The well-to-do in the village are quite indifferent to the sufferings of the poor. The Commissioner of the Dacca Division will, it is hoped, take pity on these suffering people.

31. The same paper has the following:—

Jobbery in the 24-Parganas District Board Office.

We have been hearing complaints against the 24-Parganas District Board Office for the last two years. Babu Basanta Kumar Basu, the education clerk in that office, has compiled several school books. These books have not been approved by the Central Text Book Committee, but still Babu Upendranath Dutta, Head Clerk of the office, has issued a notice recommending these books to the teachers of upper and lower primary pathshalas in the 24-Parganas district. The notice runs as follows:—

The teachers of upper and lower primary schools in the 24-Parganas district are hereby informed that the following books, compiled by Babu



Basanta Kumar Basu, are the best of their kind and eminently fit for the candidates for the upper and lower primary examinations. They are widely read in the schools throughout the Province. The examinations are drawing nigh, and it is expected that these books will be appointed to be read in those schools in which they have not yet been appointed to be read.

(1) *Zamindari, Mahajani and Bazarhishab*, price three annas. It is a book eminently fit for the students of the upper and lower primary schools. It is not only the best, but also the cheapest book of its kind. It has been highly spoken of by educational officers. The teachers are informed that from this year upper primary schools will be allowed to send up candidates for both upper and lower primary examinations.

(2) *Svasthan Upayer Prasnotar*, a catechism on Hygiene, in Bengali, intended for the boys of the upper and lower primary schools, price two annas. None but Basanta Babu has got permission to write such a catechism.

(3) *Bijnan Prabeser Prasnotar*, price two annas. It is intended for the boys of the upper and lower primary schools.

The last two books do not belong to the common run of such books. They are written in a flowing, easy style, and have been carefully compiled, the questions and answers being systematically arranged.

The books are to be had at this office, at the Sanskrit Press Depository, No. 148, Baranashi Ghose's Street, and of all other principal book-sellers.

DISTRICT 24-PARGANAS,

ALIPORE :

The 28th August 1892.

UPENDRANATH DUTTA,

District Board School Office.

The above notice was printed at the cost of the District Board and sent to all Sub-Inspectors of Schools. We never before heard of such impudence and audacity.

But the jobbery does not end here. There is an inspecting pandit of the name of Sarat Chandra Basu in the pay of the Board. He is hand-in-glove with the education clerk. This Sarat Chandra Basu was formerly a clerk in the Alipore Land Registration Office, and was dismissed for some serious offence. This is the man who has been appointed to superintend over the teachers of vernacular schools! Babu Sarat Chandra has not yet been able to change his nature. Some time ago he wrote in the diary that he had travelled for a whole month while he actually travelled for five days only. The Sub-Inspector of the place preferred serious charges against him, but no inquiry was made. Babu Manilal Banerji, Vice-Chairman of the District Board, is not fit for the post. His education and ability do not entitle him to it. He is also a very busy man, being the Chairman of the South Suburban Municipality and an Honorary Magistrate of Alipore. It is, therefore, quite clear that he has to depend entirely on his office staff, and is a helpless tool in their hands. These facts, some time ago, came to the notice of the Director of Public Instruction, and he requested the Chairmain of the District Board of 24-Parganas to make a sifting inquiry into the complaints preferred against his office staff. Babu Phani Bhushan Basu, Deputy Inspector, who was appointed to make the inquiry, reported that the charges made against the education clerk and the inspecting pandit were all true. Acting upon this report, Mr. Collin suspended Basanta Babu, but Sarat Babu managed to get off scotfree. Basanta Babu, too, was re-installed in his post shortly after—most probably at the request of the Vice-Chairman. The Chairman ordered the Vice-Chairman to pass his opinion on the Deputy Inspector's report before he finally disposed of the case of the education clerk. This order was passed in January last, but, strange to say, the Vice-Chairman has not yet submitted his report. It is quite clear that he is trying to protect his protégé, Basanta Babu. Babu Manilal Banerji is seeking re-election to the Vice-Chairmanship, but it is hoped that in a District Board, of which men like Raja Pearimohun Mukharji, Maharaja Narendra Krishna Dev and Mr. R. D. Mehta are members, a better man will be found to fill the post. Judging from his acts, Babu Manilal Banerji seems to be a worthless man, and we will be sorry even to see him elected a member of the District Board. The Chairman should not allow Phani Babu's report to be shelved. He should personally hold an inquiry into the charges against



Basanta and Sarat. The Commissioner of the Presidency Division and the Director of Public Instruction also should see that justice is done in the matter.

SANJIVANI,  
May 16th, 1896.

32. Municipal taxation in Calcutta, observes the same paper, is heavy enough, and the way the City Fathers are spending extravagant schemes of the municipal money is likely to make that taxation almost ruinous. It will be impossible for the lower and the middle classes to keep their place in the City of Palaces in future. The Municipal Commissioners are generous with other people's money, and are granting handsome and special pensions to municipal officials. The Calcutta drains have proved defective and hotbeds of epidemics. They are to be placed on an improved footing, at an estimated cost of seventy lakhs of rupees. The roof of the Calcutta Town Hall is about to give way, and it is to be changed and thoroughly repaired at an estimated cost of one lakh and forty thousand rupees. Some Commissioners would re-build the Town Hall altogether. They also propose to build a palatial house for the Municipal Offices at a cost of several lakhs. Now, all this means loan, and loan means increased taxation. The proposal of building a Municipal Office should not be pressed at this time. It is no doubt desirable that the Municipality should have a house where all the offices can be located, but it should cut its coat according to its cloth.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
May 16th, 1896.

33. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 16th May writes as follows:—

The Magistrate of Burdwan was asked to report what steps he had taken to remove water-scarcity in his district, but he wrote in his report that there was no such scarcity within his jurisdiction. We, however, have received complaints of water-scarcity from various places in the Burdwan district. The villages Bhaturia, Betpukur, Baki and others, within the jurisdiction of the Purbasthali thana, in the Kulna subdivision, have to cart their drinking water from the Hooghly, which is eight miles off. One day some Musalmans were bringing water in this way, when four monkeys intercepted them, and made signs that they were very thirsty. One of the men went to a neighbouring village for a cup, but on his return found two of the poor creatures dead. Yet the Magistrate says there is no scarcity of water. All praise to his worship!

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR.

34. The same paper thanks Mr. Collin, Magistrate of the 24-Parganas, for including the name of a Musalman among the two names he has submitted to Government for filling up the vacancy on the District Board, caused by the death of Prince Sir Jahan Kadr Merza. Among the twelve nominated members on this Board, there were only 2 Muhammadans, of whom the deceased Prince was one. A Musalman should, therefore, get the vacant place, especially as the district contains a large Musalman population not adequately represented on the Board. The Magistrate's Musalman nominee Kasem is a man of ability and social position.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR.

35. The same paper complains that while water-scarcity prevails in some villages within the jurisdiction of the Baduria thana, in the Basirhat subdivision of the 24-Parganas district, a well has been excavated in the Overseer's compound at one extremity of the subdivision, and where there is a large tank. If this is the well the Magistrate refers to in his report, it will not relieve the water-scarcity in Basirhat.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
May 16th, 1896.

36. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 16th May complains of water-scarcity in the Bankura town, and suggests that the local municipality should excavate a deep tank in the town to provide a supply of water for the townspeople.

CHARU MIHIR,  
May 11th, 1896.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

37. The *Charu Mihir* of the 11th May complains that the road from Mymensingh to Tangail, in the Mymensingh district, is, in many places, in a very bad condition. The portion of it between Muktagacha and Gabtali

Certain roads in the Mymensingh district.



is not safe for wheeled traffic, and all the bridges in the portion between Kalihati and Tangail are so badly jointed with their landing places that no carriages can get on them. The Subarnakhali road, too, is at many points quite impassable; and the condition of the road between Madhupur and Gopalpur reflects discredit on the District Board.

38. The *Hitavadi* of the 15th May says that ill-treatment of native passengers by European railway officers still continues on the East Indian Railway line. On the

A case of railway oppression.

11th March last a respectable native gentleman, a Basu, was travelling on that line with three native ladies in down mail No. 2. The ladies were in the female carriage. When the train reached Madhupur, a European lady wanted to get into the train. She could not of course travel with native women. So the Assistant Station Master, Mr. Collin, came up and made the three native ladies alight in order to make room for the new-comer, telling them that the carriage was intended for European ladies only, although no notice to that effect was put up. A similar occurrence took place some time ago, when the Agent's office informed this paper in their letter No. 5778, dated the 26th June 1895, that measures had been taken, which, the Agent trusted, would guard against a repetition of such an occurrence. Is this the effect of those measures? What will the railway authorities say this time?

HITAVADI,  
May 15th, 1896.

39. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 16th May says that one day a native passenger at the Sealdah station, who sat down on

Railway complaints.

one of the two benches in front of the first and second class ticket rooms, where luggage is weighed, was told by a *chaprasi* to leave his seat, as the benches were intended for Europeans. If the benches are really intended for European passengers, the Traffic Superintendent should cause signboards to that effect to be put up there. If such unequal treatment is accorded to *kala admis* and white men in Calcutta, one should be able to guess to what oppressions the observance of the race distinctions must lead in the mufassal.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
May 16th, 1896.

The writer also publishes the following complaints against the Bengal North-Western Railway:—

(1) Only one intermediate class carriage is attached to each train; and intermediate female passengers are made to travel in the same compartment as third class female passengers.

(2) There is no separate accommodation for native female passengers on the steamer plying between Mokameh and Dighaghat. There was such accommodation when the railway was under State management. Since the transfer of the railway to the Rothschilds, every attempt is being made to curtail expenditure, and the result is a disregard of the comfort and convenience of passengers. If this state of things continues Musalman female passengers, in particular, will leave off travelling by this railway.

(3) Passengers and goods being carried by the same trains, intolerable delay is caused to passengers by long stoppages and slow motion.

(4) There is no adequate arrangement for supply of drinking water to passengers at the stations. In some stations there is no such arrangement at all.

(5) Goods and parcels sent by this railway are often stolen or damaged. If the injured parties appeal to the authorities, nothing is done. The small pay paid to the employes has caused this evil to grow.

(h)—General.

40. The *Charu Mihir* of the 11th May has the following:—

Punkha for European troops.

The people of Bengal, who are now parched with thirst, will be refreshed to hear that the punkha expense of the European troops in the Allahabad Division is twenty-five thousand rupees. This expense is incurred in order to make air, a commodity which is always available without the least trouble, pleasant to the European troops. How happy would we be if Government were equally generous in the matter of the supply of water, a commodity which has to be obtained by digging the earth at great expense and with much trouble, when the sky has been so cruel,

CHARU MIHIR,  
May 11th, 1896.



the officials so unsympathetic and the zamindars so indifferent. The expenditure in question emphasises the unequal importance which is attached to the question of the comfort of the European soldier and the question of the Indian's life and death from want of water. The thrifty Government is not willing to throw money into "water."

SAHACHAR,  
May 13th, 1896.

41. The *Sahachar* of the 13th May says that though Sir James Westland has won great praise by showing a surplus in the last budget, and is beside himself in joy for what he considers his feat in financing, no keen-eyed man, looking beneath the surface, will allow him much credit for the flourishing condition of the Indian exchequer. Credit is due to Sir James only for the saving in the expenditure made by reducing the interest on the public debt. The other causes of the surplus were at work long before he took charge of his office.

Is not the present improved condition of the finances due almost entirely to the imposition of new taxes and the development of existing ones? An eminent writer in the *Times* newspaper has rightly pointed out that incessant increase of taxation and certain accidental causes have combined to produce the present improvement in India's finances, and that no credit is, therefore, due to the Finance Member. The improvement in exchange is certainly a fortuitous circumstance, and will last only for a short time; for there are indications already that the gold value of the rupee will again fall. It is, of course, Sir James Westland's good fortune that the existing taxes were capable of expansion. But to whom is the credit for their expansion due? To the tax-payers without doubt. Government was short of funds by five crores in the course of the six years ended in 1889. This deficit had to be made up by new taxes. Again, for three years, Government's expenditure exceeded the revenue; and taxes were again increased. Indeed, if the revenue of six crores yielded by an increase of old taxes and the six crores brought in by new taxes were left out, and the Finance Member were made to restore the whole famine insurance fund without deduction, he would certainly have no surplus to show.

From what class of people, again, have the increased taxes being levied? Have they not been levied, for the most part, from the poor who live in huts? The salt tax, for instance, is a tax which presses more heavily upon the poor than upon the rich. And this tax alone yielded two crores and twenty lakhs. Every new Secretary of State says he will abolish this duty, but never does so.

Improvement of the Government's financial condition is thus secured by increasing the poor man's poverty. Instead of exulting over his surplus, Sir James Westland ought to think of the future of the poor Indian. The thought will confound and bewilder.

HITAVADI,  
May 15th, 1896.

42. The *Hitavadi* of the 15th May says that the descendants of Maharaja Kula Chandra and Tikendrajit, who are living in exile in Sylhet, are now absolute paupers. Private individuals are maintaining them by subscriptions. A fact like this certainly speaks very well for the justice and righteousness of the English Government! Thanks to that Government, those who once fed innumerable poor people are now themselves unable to procure their own daily food!

HITAVADI,

43. The same paper has the following:—

The native soldier.

Although no one has ever publicly said or declared that the native soldier is timid and worthless, many people seem to have an impression that the native soldier, though not absolutely worthless on the field, does not deserve the recognition of the civilised world. Those who think so are not acquainted with the causes of the deterioration of the native soldier, and have not sufficiently studied the history of his deterioration.

As a matter of fact, India has not lost her hardihoods and prowess with her independence. She still brings forth children brave, strong and intelligent. The native soldier, wearing as he does the fetters of slavery round his feet, is not inferior to any other soldier in the world in a knowledge of nineteenth century warfare. Everyone who has seen the native soldier admits this. It is because the native soldier has few opportunities for developing his powers and no scope for displaying his innate military aptitudes that he has got so bad a name.



In training, in-examination, in everything in short, the native soldier is placed under peculiar disadvantages. The highest office that a Sivaji or a Ranjit Singh, a Baber or a Chengiz Khan could have looked forward to in the English Army is a Rasaldar-Majorship. Can a full development of military genius be expected under circumstances so discouraging?

The equipment of the native soldier being far inferior to that of his English brother-in-arms, is it reasonable to expect from him as good service on the field as you get from the latter? Success in war in these days depends upon arms and not upon strength, upon tactics and not upon courage. Is there any good reason for giving inferior arms to the native soldier? And the native soldier gets worse food, worse clothing, and, in fact, worse everything than his European comrade!

The native soldier sacrifices his life ungrudgingly for his English masters. He has shown the highest example of devotion by living upon gruel himself in order to give his rice to save the life of his English comrade. The native soldier is an example of hardiness and fortitude to many others of his calling, but all this notwithstanding, he must entertain no hope of obtaining high honours and emoluments, even by performing the most daring and memorable exploit; nay, he does not, for all this, enjoy even the confidence of Government. But discouraged and distrusted, the Sikh, the Gurkha, and the Rajput have rendered incomparable services to the English Government.

The English public not only know not what the native soldier has done in his own country, but he is ignorant of what he has done outside of it—in the valleys of Abyssinia, on the banks of the Nile, and in East and South Africa. The *Times* has, indeed, spoken highly of them. But the eulogy has not induced the authorities to show more favour to the soldier who has been so long denied. The native soldier has conquered and is holding Africa for England. Whether in agriculture, in survey operations, in the making of maps, in the spreading of trade, or in the performance of labour in all its forms, the Indian has displayed remarkable power in Africa. The *Times* newspaper knows what Indian prowess and Indian labour has done for the progress and prosperity of Natal.

But why speak of Indian labour, Indian prowess, and Indian trade alone? It is Indian money—the very heart's blood, so to say, of the Indian people—that has won Africa for England. That the Indian has not obtained equal rights with other people in a land for the acquisition of which the Indian raiyat has paid and the Indian soldier has sold his life and for the development of whose resources the Indian merchant has crossed the sea, and the Indian labourer has sweated is the most signal proof of injustice by a just Government that it is possible for one to bring forward or imagine. India has borne the entire cost of the acquisition of Africa. It was upon Indians, again, that the brunt of the labour for its acquisition fell. But the entire profit is England's. Though the native soldier knew all this, he was prepared to fight to the last drop of his blood for the acquisition of Africa, and he is still so prepared, and shall always be. Are there many countries where you could see an instance of military devotion like this? The Indian soldier knows that he has little to hope for himself or his country, and he has, therefore, made obedience to the English Government his one guiding principle in life. In obeying its commands he will cheerfully lay down his life.

Few who have seen the Indian soldier will have any hesitation in admitting that no other soldier in the world is so hardy, so devoted and so content with small pay as he. The authorities should be more kind to him. He costs Government far less than his English comrade. Like the latter, he creates no woman difficulty for his Government. Out of his small earnings he maintains his wife, children and other dependents. Why, then, should there be so many obstacles in the way of the promotion and welfare of this every-way praise-worthy man?

44. The *Pratihar* of the 15th May says that though the proposal to give up the Lalitakuri or Bhagirathi embankment, in the Murshidabad district, and construct a direct new line from Jiaganj to Bhagwangola, which will be shorter by 32 miles than the old embankment, will enable Government to

The proposal of a new embankment in the Murshidabad district.

PRATIKAR,  
May 15th, 1896.



make some saving, it will leave 22 square miles of land outside the embankment to be flooded every year, to the ruin of all residents dwelling upon it. The Dewansara road, too, will be destroyed. This is the way that Government looks after the welfare of its subjects now-a-days. The fear that the old embankment will give way is said to have led the Government to make the above proposal.

SANJIVANI.  
May 16th, 1896.

45. The *Sanjivani* of the 16th May complains that the officials are interfering with native industries and are trying their best to nip in the bud the movement for the use of indigenous articles. The *Cawnpur Observer* says that the people of Jhansi established an Association for the encouragement of native industries and the opening of cotton mills. The Association had begun its work, when it was suppressed by the police. In Rawal Pindi the people were refused permission to call a meeting for a similar purpose. The *Tribune* of the 29th April last complains that detectives have been employed to inquire into, and report on, all *swadesi* movements, i.e., movements for the promotion and encouragement of native industries. In Hyderabad, Sindh, an official circular has been issued, forbidding all Government officers to buy, in their own names or in the names of other persons, shares in any mill or firm or joint-stock Company or to join any *swadesi* movement. If any Government officer disobeys this order, he will be punished under the Indian Penal Code and dismissed from the public service. An amusing incident took place in the Tinnevely station in Madras. Goods weighing several thousand maunds arrived at that station. The station-master asked their owner if these were materials for weaving native cloth. The owner jocosely answered that the station-master was right. There was disaffection in the land, and the people had promised to use nothing but indigenous goods. The station-master took this joke seriously and communicated the matter to the Collector, who engaged detectives to enquire. The police, however, gave up pursuing the alleged malcontents, as it held that it was not a disloyal act to wear indigenous cloth. In Gulbarga, a town in Hyderabad, several rich Naidus applied for permission to open a cotton mill. But the Nizam's Government refused to grant permission, fearing that it thereby might incur the displeasure of the Supreme Government.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
May 16th, 1896

46. In continuation of its article noticed in paragraph 44 of Report on Native Papers of the 2nd May 1896, the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 16th May writes as follows regarding Ray Kailas Chandra Das, Bahadur, Manager of the Wards estates in Chittagong:—

The Rai Bahadur has become old and infirm, and is ill for ten months in the year. Still Government does not dispense with his services. England could do without her Pitt, Fox and Wellington, India without her Akbar, France without her Napoleon, and America without her Washington, but the British Government in India cannot, it seems, do without Rai Kailas Chandra Das Bahadur.

The Rai Bahadur cannot bear the fatigue of a walk from his lodgings to his office. Government has therefore placed one of the conveniently situated public buildings in Chittagong at his disposal and given him a sinecure appointment.

But Government will surely be responsible to God for making such waste of the wards' money. With the exception of Kumar Bhuvan Mohun of the Hill Tracts not one of the wards in Chittagong has received proper education. If the Lieutenant-Governor or the Commissioner were to send for these young men, he would at once see that not one of them is lacking in intelligence, and yet none of them has been given a good education. The manager does not pay the least attention to the matter, nor does he go to their lodgings and enquire about them even once in a year. This will be seen from an inspection of the manager's diaries. Fazl Ali Khan's estate was brought under the Court of Wards in 1882. His son was seven years old at the time. After seven years and after the perpetration of many scandals, the boy was sent to Hooghly in 1889. Why was he not sent to any school during these seven years? Did the manager make any enquiries about this matter? Again, why was he sent to Hooghly, instead of to Aligurh or to the Calcutia Madrassa?



47. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 18th May understands that there is a vacancy in the Revenue Board Office, and although there are qualified native apprentices serving in that department, Mr. Slack, Secretary, Revenue Board, has advertised in the *Indian Daily News* for a European or a Eurasian for the post. There is nothing in the business transacted in the Board which a Hindu cannot satisfactorily perform. Why, then, this determination to get a European or a Eurasian for the post? Will Messrs. Stevens and Grimley tolerate such injustice?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
May 18th, 1896.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

48. The *Charu Mihir* of the 11th May writes as follows:—

CHARU MIHIR,  
May 11th, 1896.

The Estates Partition Bill. It has been said in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Estates Partition Bill that the creation of small estates by partition gives facilities for enhancing rents and places raiyats under other inconveniences. Taking for granted that the Bill will put a stop to these evils, how are similar evils arising from the partition of estates through the agency of the law courts to be prevented? As for facilities being offered for illegal enhancement of rent, it is enough to say that raiyats are not bound by anything entered in the partition papers. Lawful enhancements can be made under all circumstances. Unlawful enhancements should certainly be checked, but in order to check them, a whole community should not be deprived of their privileges. Another reason urged against unrestricted partition is that a raiyat's *jote* may fall to the separate shares of two or more co-sharers, and in that case the raiyat feels great inconvenience in paying rents. But it may be asked if a raiyat does not feel greater inconvenience in paying rents when the zamindari is shared by, say, ten co-sharers than when he is the raiyat of two or three zamindars. A third reason urged against unrestricted partition is, that it gives peasant landlords and petty landlords opportunities of making raiyats' *jotes* their own *khas*. But to answer this objection, it need only be pointed out that raiyats under peasant landlords and petty landlords are generally better off than their zamindars, and need therefore be under no apprehension that they will be ousted from their holdings by their zamindars. Instances are not rare in which raiyats themselves, in order to escape from oppression and avoid the trouble of having to pay rents in different places, have induced co-sharers of zamindaris to partition their estates. The hint has been thrown out that when an estate is owned by many co-sharers the latter should appoint a joint manager under the provisions of Act VIII of 1885. But a manager is a costly officer, and the suggestion cannot be adopted in small estates. Moreover, the appointment of a common manager will not remedy the evil of unequal possession caused by *khamars*, &c. Nor does the section of the Tenancy Act alluded to relate to the appointment of a manager, except in cases in which disputes exist. If, therefore, partition is disallowed, petty co-sharers in an estate will have no remedy for their inconveniences. Their shares will, in consequence, fall in value, injuring not only themselves but the Government too.

It has been urged as unreasonable that Government should be asked to allow unrestricted partition of estates when the zamindars themselves do not concede a similar right to their tenants. But do zamindars enjoy the same powers of realising arrears of dues as the Government? The Government has its sunset law; the zamindar must go to the law Court. Is it proper, then, that zamindars should be denied the right of partition by the State because they do not concede a similar right to their tenants? If the Bill is to be passed, it should be passed in a form which will effectually protect poor and petty landlords against the oppressions of their wealthier co-sharers.

When an estate is under survey for the purpose of partition, notice is given only to the co-sharers whose estates are to be divided and to all co-sharers in the joint estate. If a notice were, at the same time, served upon all landlords whose estates are conterminous with that under partition, and the survey were made in their presence, suits under section 116 of the Partition Act would probably decrease in number. This section is an obstacle to partition. Those who are not willing to have a partition injure weak and quiet landlords by raising objections under it. The power of the Collector should be increased so that he may check all abuse of the section. He should be empowered to arrive



at a summary decision regarding the title to, and possession of, any land in respect of which objection is raised under it, and if the land is found to be a part of the estate, to subject it to partition. If, however, any doubt exists, the Collector should go on with the partition proceedings, keeping the partition of the land under objection in suspense.

The sections put in with the view of removing the delay which now occurs in the course of partition proceedings are good. But the proposal about ascertaining tenants' rights at the time of partition will probably frustrate the principal object of the Bill, which is to simplify partition proceedings.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
May 16th, 1896.

49. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 16th May considers either Maulvi Abdul Jubbar or Maulvi Serajul Islam, Khan Bahadur, as the fittest man to fill the vacancy caused in the Viceroy's Legislative Council by the death of Prince Sir Jahan Kadr Meerza. Maulvi Abdul Jubbar is a man highly esteemed for his varied learning and experience as well as for the services rendered by him to his co-religionists and to the Government.

Maulvi Serajul Islam is an equally popular man. It is doubtful whether an independent Musalman like him has yet sat in the Bengal Council.

The *Moslem Chronicle* is for either Maulvi Muhammad Yusuf Khan or Maulvi Delawar Hossein. But the former cannot be regarded as a leading member of the Muhammadan community. For he has not a thorough command of Bengali and Urdu, and is utterly anglicised. A raiyat from the mufassal coming to him will not probably be allowed even an entrance into his house, and if admitted, will not be understood by him. Nor will a high-class Musalman, with his Bengali and next to nothing of Urdu or English, fare much better near him.

In the Bengal Council he has shown no independence, and is unable to do much useful work on account of his ignorance of the vernacular of the country.

As to Maulvi Delawar Hossein, he is not the man to whom the Muhammadan community look up for the protection of their religion. He must not come either into the Supreme or into the Bengal Council.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
May 17th, 1896.

50. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 17th May has the following in continuation of what it wrote on the subject in its last issue (see Report on Native Papers of the 16th May, paragraph 46):—  
The Estates Partition Bill.

We have already shown that it is extremely inadvisable to refuse partition of an estate, on the ground that the annual amount of land revenue for which the separate estate of any of the proprietors would after partition be liable would not exceed one hundred rupees. Mr. Finucane's arguments in support of this provision have, as we have already shown, no legs to stand upon. We do not, however, venture to think that our criticism will have any effect on the mover of the Bill or induce him to modify it in the light of public opinion. But the fact is that section 10 of the Bill, if passed, will virtually make partition of estates impossible, for about ninety-nine *per cent.* of estates in this country are estates under contemplation in section 10, and it is these estates which stand in great need of partition.

Section 88 of the Bill is no doubt an improvement on section 116 of the existing Act. But this improvement is halting and half-way. It will not effectually put an end to the unnecessary delay caused by partition proceedings. Under section 116 of the existing Act, objection can be made to partition almost at every stage of the proceedings before they are finally confirmed by the Revenue Board. Section 88 of the Bill, however, provides that no objection to partition will be entertained, except under special circumstances, and no such objection will be allowed after the Deputy Collector has made out a scheme of partition under section 57 and proceeds to determine how the parent estate shall be partitioned into separate estates. This, however, is a small relief to those who apply for partition, as a person will, under the section, have still the opportunity to indefinitely postpone partition by making endless objections to it before the Deputy Collector proceeds to make partition under section 57 of the Bill. If Mr. Finucane really intends to put an end to the unnecessary delay which is caused by partition proceedings, he should introduce some such provision as the following into his Bill:—If in making a survey of



an estate with a view to its partition lands alleged not to belong to the parent estate are surveyed along with it, objection should be made to their inclusion in the survey map within three months from the date of the survey. No objection shall be entertained at the end of three months.

Three months is enough time for a person to come to know that his lands have been surveyed along with a parent estate with a view to partition. If he has any reasonable objection to make, he can certainly make it within that time. It is, of course, only fair to make an exception in the case of a person who, owing to residence in a distant place, could not possibly become acquainted with the fact that his lands had been included in the survey of a neighbouring estate with a view to its partition. But in the case of persons who, either as co-sharers of an undivided estate or as claimants of lands alleged to be in dispute, as to whether they belong to the parent estate under partition, are duly informed of the partition, no extension should be granted. It can be easily ascertained that disputes referred to in section 88 are generally raised by one or more powerful co-sharers of a parent estate as a protection against whom another co-sharer seeks partition. It is the interest of these powerful co-sharers to indefinitely postpone partition, and they often succeed in doing so under section 116 of the present Act.

The fact is that those co-sharers of an undivided estate who object to its partition generally possess lands in another estate. With the help of the raiyats of this latter estate they often forcibly take possession of the lands of a weak co-sharer, who finds it very difficult to prove his right as against the forcible possessors of his lands with the evidence of his *raiya*s, who are also the *raiya*s of his enemies, and cannot, therefore, be expected to give evidence against them. But his enemies who possess lands in another estate find it very easy to prove, with the false evidence of the *raiya*s of that estate that the lands they had forcibly taken possession of really belonged to them. A co-sharer of an undivided estate, it is thus quite clear, applies for partition as a protection against powerful enemies, and it is not advisable that his enemies should be allowed to have any advantage over him.

Want of facility for partition is causing loss not only to co-sharers of an undivided estate, but also to the Government which every year has to buy up defaulting estates put up for public auction at a considerable loss to itself. The Government's land revenue is diminishing year by year. It is a common occurrence in this country that the disunion and jealousy among the co-sharers of an undivided estate often give the powerful owner of a neighbouring estate the opportunity to acquire, little by little, the possession of a large portion of the undivided estate and subsequently to have his right in the acquired portion established by the decree of a civil court by means of false evidence and other unlawful tactics. The consequence is that this estate becomes so much reduced in area that its owners no more find it profitable to maintain its possession, and purposely default in paying the land revenue, so that it may be put up for sale. The Government or any other person who may happen to purchase it cannot afterwards get back the portion wrongfully acquired. Cadastral survey is no effectual remedy against this evil. Cadastral survey is generally very defective. Speaking from our own personal experience, we have no hesitation in saying that if one were to depend on cadastral survey, one would find that large portions of many estates had completely disappeared. The metes and bounds fixed by the survey have, in many cases, been altered or interfered with by the machinations of unscrupulous zamindars, or have, in some cases, undergone considerable change in course of time under the operation of natural physical causes. In this way, the owners of undivided estates, the Government and those who happen to purchase those estates, become losers in the transaction.

This evil can be remedied only if owners of undivided estates be granted facility for partition. All the separate estates into which the parent estate is divided become well defined by fixed metes and bounds. The Government no longer runs the risk of losing its revenue, while the owner of each separate estate has his possession fully secured. He is induced to improve the condition of his land, rent rises, and the Government gets more in the shape of road and public works cesses.



On all these grounds, the Government should provide for facilitating partition, and the following suggestions are made with a view to enable it to do so with success :—

(1) Claimants to lands alleged to be in dispute, who have been served with a notice of partition, should not be allowed more than three months' time from the date of survey to put forward their objections to partition.

(2) If it is proved that any land in dispute under section 88 does not belong to a parent estate under partition, the Deputy Collector shall give up surveying it and proceed with the survey of other lands.

(3) If any owner of the undivided estate under partition has any objection to the Deputy Collector's decision, he shall file a case to prove his claim to the disputed land within three months from the passing of the Deputy Collector's order. If the court decrees the whole or a part of the land in dispute in favour of the plaintiff, and declares that it belongs to the parent estate, it shall be partitioned along with the lands already under partition, if the decision of the civil court is passed before the partition proceedings are finally confirmed by the Revenue Board. If the decision is passed after confirmation by the Board of the partition proceedings, the owners of the parent estate partitioned shall have the right either to jointly enjoy the possession of the land, or to subsequently partition it among themselves.

(4) If a dispute or doubt is found to exist as to whether any land forms part of a parent estate, the Deputy Collector shall give notice to the person who claims the land in dispute to file a civil suit within three months to have his right established. If the claimant files such a suit within three months and the Deputy Collector is informed of the fact, he shall suspend all partition proceedings till a decision is passed by the Court. If the Court decides that the land in dispute, or a portion of it, does not belong to the parent estate, the Deputy Collector shall at once proceed with the partition of all lands with the exception of the land or the portion of land decreed in favour of the plaintiff.

(5) If the Deputy Collector decides that the land in dispute really belongs to the parent estate, the claimant shall have the right to file a civil suit within three months to get the Deputy Collector's decision reversed. If the suit is filed within three months and the Deputy Collector is duly served with a notice, he shall suspend all partition proceedings till a decision is passed by the court. If the court decides that the whole or a part of the land in dispute belongs to the plaintiff, the Deputy Collector shall partition all the lands with the exception of the whole or a part of the land in dispute, which is decreed in the plaintiff's favour.

(6) If it appears that the rental of the land which remains after the exclusion of the land decreed in favour of the plaintiff is less than the land revenue to be paid to the Government, the Deputy Collector shall stop all partition proceedings.

Partition should be refused in this case, and in this case only. The survey of an estate, with a view to its partition, costs its owners a good deal of money, and it is not fair that partition should be given up after this expenditure has been incurred. The Collector has, of course, every right to refuse partition on sufficient grounds before the survey of an estate is made, but after survey partition should not be refused in any case except the above.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
May 12th, 1896.

51. The Lieutenant-Governor, observes the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 12th May, regrets that people in this country no longer look upon the digging of tanks as an act of religious merit. His Honour is right. Men's minds have changed. Hindus of old and Hindus of the present day differ as much as any two things can differ. What was looked upon as an act of religious merit in those days is looked down upon as a gross superstition in these. Giving food to the poor was looked upon as an act of religious merit; it is now condemned as an act encouraging idleness. It is clear to all that in these days it is unquestionably more profitable to raise statues in honour of retiring European officials than to dig tanks and wells, Spending money in encouraging the fads of the



Simla officials entitles a person to greater praise than spending money in removing the distress of the poor! After this who would care to lose immediate material good in the hope of gaining a doubtful spiritual benefit hereafter? As the *Indian Nation* rightly observes, the time and attention of the Indian millionaires are more than occupied in keeping European officials in humour, and they have consequently neither time nor money to spare for the poor.

52. The *Hitavadi* of the 15th May says that Lieutenant O'Meara is making himself notorious at Dibrugar. He probably looks upon the Red Road at that place as his patrimony.

HITAVADI,  
May 15th, 1896.

Lieutenant O'Meara's vagaries. Or why should he object to natives walking or driving over it? The *Assam Times* says that one day the Lieutenant sent a havildar to Mahesh Babu and Chuni Babu, two very respectable residents, with a message for them not to drive along that road. On hearing the message, the two Babus said that if this order was meant for the entire native community, a printed notice to that effect should be put up at the two extremities of the road, and if it was meant for them alone, the Lieutenant should issue a written order to them. Lieutenant O'Meara then sent for the two Babus, who attended in compliance with his wishes. But as soon as they reached the door of the Lieutenant's house, he ordered them in very harsh tones to take off their shoes. To escape greater indignities, the Babus did as they were bid. The Lieutenant then let them off with a sharp reprimand. Chuni Babu and Mahesh Babu are respected even by the Chief Commissioner of Assam, who never requires them to take off their shoes in his presence. It is to be hoped that the two Babus will try to obtain redress for the indignity to which they were subjected by Lieutenant O'Meara. The Chief Commissioner of Assam, too, should attend to the matter.

53. The *Sanjivani* of the 16th May has the following:—

SANJIVANI,  
May 16th, 1896.

The Birthday celebration in Chittagong. Mr. Skrine seems to be feeling too keenly the absence of sports and amusements in the part of the country where he has gone as Commissioner, and with his wonted fondness for merry-making has made up his mind not to tolerate the dulness and insipidity of human life in Chittagong. The new Commissioner is nothing if not a man of whims and caprices, and this year he has conceived the idea of celebrating the Empress's Birthday with theatricals, *nautches*, fire-works and other amusements. He communicated his idea to his faithful subordinates. The Magistrates and their *amlas* girded up their loins, and were joined by some of the pleaders of the local bar. They at once took the field. Babu Bagala Prasana Majumdar, Deputy Magistrate, called a public meeting in the Chittagong school building on the 22nd April last. The Commissioner himself presided, and the District Judge, the District Magistrate and a large number of officials graced the meeting with their presence. The Commissioner, in his opening speech, laid stress on the necessity of sports and amusements. Amusement, he said, was the salt of life. It gave tone to both mind and body, and without it life was not worth living. There were sports and amusements in Greece, there are sports and amusements in England. Wherever the speaker had been there were amusements. Chittagong, and Chittagong alone, had none! It was true that there was a want of aristocracy in Chittagong, but every man might pay something for amusements. The President accordingly proposed to celebrate the Empress's Birthday on the 20th May with *nautches*, theatricals, fire-works and other amusements. He also proposed a *barwari puja* in this connection. Mr. N. N. Mitra, Barrister-at-Law, and the old pleader, Babu Kamala Kanta Sen, heartily seconded the proposal. Babu Satis Chandra Sen, B.L., waxed eloquent over the æsthetic and other virtues of *nautches*. Maulvi Badiyal Alum alone proposed the establishment of a town hall and a library. Among those present there were many ready to protest against *nautches* and theatricals, but they were not allowed to speak.

Mr. Skrine and his faithful disciples did not let grass grow under their feet. The day after the meeting sub committees were formed in various centres in the mufassal, consisting of munsifs, tahsildars, assistant settlement officers, sub-registrars and head-masters of entrance schools. A central committee was formed for the same purpose in Chittagong town, consisting of heads of departments. Collection of subscriptions went on briskly. On pay day, in May, heads of departments deducted something from the pay of every one of their subordinates, the latter not protesting from a fear of incurring the



displeasure of their masters. Even peons and maharrirs were made to pay, and had therefore to pinch their wives and children. The sub-committees are already arranging, on a grand scale, for *nautches* and theatricals.

Fortunately, however, there are still good men in the country. The Chittagong Students' Purity Association held a meeting in the building of the Chittagong High English School to protest against the celebration of the birthday of the lady who is a model of chastity and purity with *nautches* and theatricals. Reverend D. L. Donald, of the Baptist Mission Church, occupied the chair on the occasion. The following resolutions were passed at the meeting:—

- (1) That this meeting of the Chittagong Students' Purity Association call upon its members to remember, especially at this time, the promise which they have made to abstain from attending entertainments in which fallen women take part, and to discountenance and discourage all such entertainments.
- (2) That this meeting of the Chittagong Students' Purity Association, while rejoicing in the proposed public celebration of the anniversary of the Birthday of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, Empress of India, hear with regret that it is intended that *nautches* and other exhibitions, in which women take part, should form part of the celebration, and earnestly represent (a) that the occurrence of any exhibition in which it is notorious that fallen women take part, if held under the patronage of the high officials of the town, will be morally prejudicial; (b) that by such an exhibition the students of our town will be morally injured; (c) that in its opinion the best interests of the celebration would be served by the omission of these objectionable items; and (d) that the items in question are such as would not have the approval of Her Most Gracious Majesty.
- (3) That a copy of the above resolutions be forwarded to the Commissioner for information.

Copies of these resolutions were printed and circulated before the meeting was held. Mr. N. N. Mittra got hold of one of these copies and sent it to Mr. Skrine with his remarks thereon. Mr. Skrine thanked him for this favour, and Mr. Mittra must have been highly flattered by the Commissioner's compliments. Mr. Skrine's letter to Mr. Mittra ran as follows:—

Dear Mr. Mittra,

"Thanks for the hand-bill. To notice these foolish boys would be to give them an importance utterly beyond their deserts. They ought to be soundly whipped for a set of young prigs. Thanks, however, for your letter again, and for your reasonable remarks."

So Mr. Skrine calls the members of the Purity Association "foolish boys," and would whip them for their moral courage. The members of an Association of which the Reverend D. L. Donald is the Secretary, and Babu Benimadhab Das, M.A., is Assistant Secretary, and which counts among its members men like Babu Akshay Kumar Sen, M.A., Babu Sasankamohan Sen, B.A., Babu Ananda Charan Chaudhuri, B.L., and Babu Sarada Kumar Sen, B.L., ought certainly to be flogged!

Mr. Skrine, however, has changed the programme of entertainments. The resolutions of the Purity Association seem to have made some effect on him. He has taken off *nautches* and fire-works from the programme and has introduced Kali Puja.

Collection of subscriptions through official pressure is certainly objectionable in the eye of the Government. Official pressure has, in almost all cases, been brought to bear upon the office clerks and assistants in Chittagong. Several European officials, such as the Port Officer, the Collector of Customs, and many railway employes, have not paid anything. But zamindars have been made to pay handsomely.

It is to be hoped, however, that the Lieutenant-Governor will not tolerate this official high-handedness. A man of scrupulous moral principles, His Honour should not allow the Empress's Birthday to be desecrated by profane and obscene entertainments. Mr. Skrine made a sorry figure in Bhagalpur in



his attempt to encourage *nautches* and theatricals. It is a pity that his Bhagalpur experience has taught him no lesson. Will not the Lieutenant-Governor give one to this pleasure-loving and pleasure-seeking official?

54. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 19th May writes as follows:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
May 19th, 1896.

Lady doctors in India.

Female doctors are a new thing in this country.

But female *kavirajes* were not altogether unknown here. We ourselves met with two such on two different occasions. But then it was in villages where no *vaidya* lived.

Medical science is the hardest of the sciences. Social legislators are extremely unwilling to entrust into the hands of anybody and everybody the application of a science which affects human life. The Hindus have no objection to have their women whom they jealously guard even from the sun's gaze treated by male physicians, and as a matter of fact they have had their women so treated from time immemorial. We learn from the *Raghuvansa* that the pregnant Queen of the Maharaja Dileep was examined by a male physician. But Englishmen have, after these long ages, discovered that Hindu women stand sorely in need of female doctors. Lady Dufferin therefore founded a fund for supplying native women with medical aid and collected subscriptions for that purpose from all big men in India. Female doctors were, and are still being, imported from England, and measures for training female doctors in this country are being taken.

There is no respectable Hindu family which will deny an elderly *vaidya* admission into its *zanana*. At no time were such *vaidyas* denied such admission. In our childhood we entered with our paternal grandfather into the *zanana* of many a zamindar and saw him treat young ladies guarded jealously even from the sun. The venerable physician was regarded in every family as a beloved relation. As a general rule physicians are men who can be safely trusted. But it may be objected that this is true of villages only. But it is in villages that people are particularly punctillious in these matters. As regards towns, too, we can say that our maternal grandfather, who was a very famous *kaviraj* of his time, had access to the *zanana* of many high families in Calcutta.

There is no need of female doctors whatever. Female doctors are of little use in serious cases. No sensible Hindu calls in a female doctor to treat a female relative who is seriously ill. Where life is in question, it is extremely foolish to have regard to the sex of the physician to be called in.

There is no need of female hospitals in this country. If such hospitals had been a necessity, the Lady Dufferin Hospital would not have wanted inmates. The woman who will go to your Lady Dufferin Hospital will have no objection to go to the Medical College Hospital. It is poor women of the lower classes who go to hospitals, and such women little care whether the hospital they go to is a hospital for men or a hospital for women.

55. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 21st May expresses its gratification at the conferring of Birthday honours on

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
May 21st, 1896.

Birthday honours.

Babus Sarada Prosad Rai, Hariballabh Basu,

Srinath Pal, Dinanath Sen and Sib Chandra Banerji.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

56. All the native papers of Orissa complain of excessive heat, dryness of the season, and want of drinking water in all the districts of Orissa except those portions that are

The weather.

SAMVADVAHIKA,  
Mar. 9th, 1896.

situated either on river-banks or near canal embankments. The *Samvadvahika* of the 9th March observes that the excessive heat of the season, combined with the deplorable want of good drinking water, has given an impetus to the cholera epidemic, which is decimating the people by hundreds.

57. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 1st April and the *Samvadvahika* of the 2nd April approve of the resolution of Government to increase the salaries of the menial servants of Government from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 per month.

Increase of the pay of Government's menial servants.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD,  
April 1st, 1896.  
SAMVADVAHIKA,  
April 2nd, 1896.  
SAMVADVAHIKA,  
April 2nd, 1896.

58. The *Samvadvahika* of the 2nd April does not believe the story of the death of the Raja of Patna as given by the *Sambaipur Hitaishini* (see Report on Native Papers

The death of the Raja of Patna.



for 9th May, paragraph 77), and says that the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has given the more correct and rational account of the affair.

SAMVADVAHIKA,  
April 2nd, 1896.

59. The same paper observes that the treatment accorded to the Raja of Jhalwar.

the Political Agents and the Foreign Office.

SAMVADVAHIKA.

60. The same paper points out that the number of public urinals in the Balasore Municipality. Balasore Municipality is very small, and ought to be increased to a reasonable limit before steps are taken to prosecute anybody for nuisance.

SAMVADVAHIKA.

61. A correspondent of the same paper says that the lodging-houses in Akhuapada, Bhandaripukhari, and Basta Chatties of the Balasore district are in a wretched condition, and points out that the inconveniences to travellers in the chatties of the Balasore district, since the introduction of the Puri Lodging-house Act, have been increasing day by day. The number of licensed houses being very small, their owners do not treat the travellers properly, and extort money from them in various ways.

UTKALDIPIKA.  
April 4th, 1896.

62. The *Utkalipika* of the 4th April exhorts the people of Orissa to follow the example of the editor of the *Sanjivani*, a Calcutta paper, who has taken a vow not to use foreign piece-goods for one year, and explains that the cloths manufactured in India, though a little dearer, are more durable than those manufactured in Europe. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 7th April gives the same advice.

UTKALDIPIKA.

63. The same paper is glad to find an admission in the speech of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, delivered at Sambalpur, in reply to the addresses of certain Rajas and others, to the effect that the substitution of *Hindi* in the place of *Uriya* in that district has proved a source of trouble and inconvenience, and that this inconvenience must not last for a long time. The writer hopes that the Chief Commissioner will take immediate steps to make *Uriya* the language of the Courts in Sambalpur.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Mar. 25th, 1896.

64. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 25th March recommends the appointment of lady ticket-collectors on all the lines of railways.

URIYA AND NAVASAM-  
VAD,  
April 7th, 1896.

65. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 7th April has reasons to think that the Orissa Province will be soon connected with other Indian Provinces by railway, and therefore, fears that the blessing of railways will soon be converted into a curse by the rising of the prices of the staple crops, which will prove a source of misfortune to those that have no lands to cultivate.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
April 4th, 1896.

66. The *Utkaldipika* of the 4th April points out that the Settlement Officers in Orissa do not pay any attention to three important matters in which every village in Orissa is interested, namely:—

- (1) pasturage lands;
- (2) burial or burning grounds; and
- (3) village roads.

The writer has been informed that many lands that were lying waste and were reserved for the pasturage of the village cattle at the last settlement have since been brought under cultivation, and that there is hardly any land available in any village on which the cattle of that village can graze. Similarly, the number of burial and burning grounds is on the decrease, while very little land is reserved for roads. The writer urges that such lands are for public benefit, and that Government should therefore make ample provision for them. Their management and control should rest in the hands of public bodies, who must see that they are not interfered with in any way by private individuals.

URIYA AND NAVASAM-  
VAD,  
April 7th, 1896.

67. A correspondent of the *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 7th April observes that the Jajpur Exhibition was a success, that its originators were actuated by honourable and charitable motives, and that subscribers or donors paid their subscriptions out of their own free will, and approved of the expenditures that were incurred with their knowledge and consent.



UTKALDIPIKA,  
April 11th, 1896.

63. The *Utkaldipika* of the 11th April strongly opposes the proposal of a correspondent of the *Calcutta Indian Mirror* to transfer Orissa to the Central Provinces and incorporate it with the Chattisgarh Division of that Province.

UTKALDIPIKA.

69. The same paper is pleased to find that Mr. Dutt, the Officiating Commissioner of the Orissa Division, takes a great deal of personal interest in the education and training of the minor chiefs of Orissa, all of whom have been brought down to Cuttack to prosecute their studies in the educational institution of the town under the immediate supervision of the Commissioner or his assistants.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
April 18th, 1896.

70. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 18th April and the *Samvadvahika* of the 16th April do not approve of the manner in which Mr. Cotton, the Chief Secretary to the Bengal Government, received the representatives of the Municipalities of Orissa, who had been lately to

Mr. Cotton's treatment of the representatives of the Orissa Municipalities.

Calcutta to elect a representative for a vacant seat in the Bengal Legislative Council, and who, taking advantage of this opportunity, had managed to call on Mr. Cotton, who did not ask them to sit during his conversation with them. The writers request the Municipalities to take a lenient view of the matter, as Mr. Cotton is generally known to be a friend of the natives.

SAMVADVHIKA,  
April 16th, 1896.

71. The *Samvadvahika* of the 16th April is grateful to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for the generous and kind way in which he has instructed the District Boards to assist the people in digging tanks or sinking wells or in repairing old tanks and wells, as the case may be, in the present season of drought, resulting in scarcity of water.

SAMVADVHIKA,  
April 16th, 1896.

72. A correspondent of the *Samvadvahika* of the 16th April gives detailed accounts of certain illegal acts of the Cuttack Municipality, who picked a quarrel with Babu Narsing Praharaj, a local zamindar owning lands contiguous to those of the Cuttack Municipality, tried to dispossess him of his lands by magisterial and police help, but failed miserably on the High Court being moved through the District and Sessions Judge, and thus wasted the money of the rate-payers in an unnecessary litigation and in an unrighteous cause.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
April 18th, 1896.

73. The *Utkaldipika* of the 18th April quotes passages from a public judgment, delivered by the District Magistrate of Cuttack, to show that Babu Balaram Das, the Sub-Deputy Magistrate of Banki, in Cuttack, while passing judgment in the case of *Baman Subudhi* versus *Dayanidhi Panda* was actuated by private grudge against the accused, with whom he had lost temper on that account, and to question the advisability of retaining the services of such a judicial officer in a station like Banki for about eight or ten years.

74. The same paper gives an account of the cruelty of Mr. Hallward, the Principal of the Ravenshaw College, who whipped, during school hours, the minor Rajas of Narsingpur and Pal Lahera, who are of a tender age and who are prosecuting their studies in the school attached to the college, because Mr. Hallward imagined that the two Rajkumars, while riding past the play-ground of the Barbati Fort, where Mr. Hallward and other Europeans were playing the previous evening, did not salute him, as they should have done under the circumstances. Each of the Rajkumars was adjudged to twelve stripes, and these were administered with such force that blood seemed to gush out from the affected parts. On seeing and hearing this, their mothers withdrew their sons from the Collegiate School with the knowledge and consent of the Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals, who is also the Commissioner of the Orissa Division. Some of the other minor Rajas, reading in the same school, followed suit in fear, and joined another school in the town. The writer observes that this cruel and immoral act of Mr. Hallward has filled the nobility and gentry of Cuttack with feelings of sorrow and indignation. Mr. Hallward, observes the writer, is quite unfit to teach etiquette when he does not know it himself. He is also unfit to be a teacher when he shows so much temper.

UTKAL DIPIKA.



## ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSHAK-O-  
SRIHATTAVASI,  
First fortnight  
of Baisakh, 1303 B.S.

75. The *Paridarsak-o-Srihattavasi* of the first fortnight of Baisakh looks upon it as a violation of the Proclamation of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen on the part of the

The Budh-Gaya case.

Magistrate of Gaya to have ordered the Buddhists to remove the image of Buddha from the Budh-Gaya temple within a month, failing which, it is to be forcibly ejected from the temple and placed in the museum. This order goes against Government's policy of religious neutrality, and is neither right nor statesmanlike. It is to be hoped that Mr. Savage's injudicious order will be withdrawn.

PARIDARSHAK-O-  
SRIHATTAVASI.

76. The same paper finds fault with the appointment of Mr. Jolly as an

The appointment of a European  
as an Extra Assistant Commis-  
sioner.

Extra Assistant Commissioner in the place of Babu Sambhu Narayan Singh, retired. It is not known whether Mr. Jolly is a European or a Eurasian, but

there is no doubt that his appointment is not unobjectionable. There is a standing Government order that all things being equal, the claim of a native to the public service should be given the first consideration. There can, of course, be nothing to be said against Mr. Jolly's appointment if the Government assures the public that he is the best man available in Assam. But it is certain that there are in Assam many native gentlemen equally qualified for the post.

PARIDARSHAK-O-  
SRIHATTAVASI,

77. The same paper has heard many things against the post-master of Saistaganj, in Assam. The post-master should take

The Postmaster of Saistaganj.

this as a warning.

PARIDARSHAK-O-  
SRIHATTAVASI,

78. The same paper complains that the families of the late Maharaja and Senapati of Manipur are in a miserable condition.

The Manipur exiles

The pensions granted to them by Government are too small to keep their body and soul together. They have no place in the palace, and they occupy miserable thatched cottages and drag on a miserable existence. Ragged, barefooted and half-starved, they excite the sympathy of even the most callous. The children are not well fed, and their education is totally neglected. Will not the Government take pity on them and make provision for their education?

PARIDARSHAK-O-  
SRIHATTAVASI.

79. The same paper complains that since the transfer of Sylhet to Assam

Sylhet under the Assam Adminis-  
tration.

that district is faring badly from an administrative point of view. When in 1874 the district was brought under the administration of a non-regulation province, the Sylhet public strongly protested against the measure. They were, however, assured by the Government of Lord Northbrook that they would not in any way administratively suffer under the new arrangement. The following is that Government's reply to the Sylhet memorial:—

"Fort William, the 5th September 1874.

"Sir,

"His Excellency the Governor-General in Council directs me to acknowledge, through the Government of Bengal, receipt of the memorial signed by certain inhabitants of the district of Sylhet against the transfer of that district to Assam. The memorial begins by an allusion to the Bill, which has since passed into law, for the transfer of certain powers from the Bengal Government to the Government of India, and the impression of the memorialists seems to be that this law will effect some material change in the system under which they have been hitherto administered.

"2. In reply, I am to explain, for the information of the memorialists, that this law has only given formal completion to a decision which has been passed after long and careful consideration. It was recommended by the late Lieutenant-Governor Sir George Campbell, and it has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State after due regard to all the considerations set forth in the memorial under acknowledgment. But neither the transfer of the district nor the passing of an Act, which formally withdraws the district from the jurisdiction of certain authorities in Bengal, will make any substantial change in the mode of administering Sylhet. There will certainly be no change



whatever in the system of law and judicial procedure under which the inhabitants of Sylhet have hitherto lived, nor in the principles which apply throughout Bengal to the settlement and collection of land revenue.

" 3. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council regrets, therefore, that he cannot accede to the prayer of the memorialists, and I am to request that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor may be pleased to cause this reply to be communicated to them."

The assurance contained in the above has not, however, been faithfully adhered to. Since its amalgamation with Assam, Sylhet is suffering from all the disadvantages connected with a non-regulation administration. Both Act I of 1886, regarding the land revenue in Assam and the Act relating to local rates, have been enforced in Sylhet since its amalgamation. The Assam procedure for collecting the land revenue has also been adopted in Sylhet. The Local Rates Act has virtually laid the axe at the root of the Permanent Settlement. The land revenue has been practically enhanced and hard measures are adopted to collect it.

In the next place, its amalgamation with Assam has deprived Sylhet of the privilege of sending a member to the Bengal Legislative Council. Had Sylhet been still a part and parcel of Bengal it would have enjoyed this valued right. In civilisation and education Sylhet is equal to any advanced district in Bengal, and it ought not to have been tackled with a backward province. There is one more disadvantage to which Sylhet has been subjected since its amalgamation. Sylhet was a poor district in Bengal, and was treated as such. In Assam it is a rich district and is treated as such. When under the Bengal Administration the sunset law was not applied to Sylhet. It has now to pay the penalty of being treated as a rich district.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 23rd May 1896.



